Upgradation of Amritsar Airport

1710. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the position on date regarding completion of upgradation project of Amritsar Airport to the International level;

(b) the details of phase-wise programme to complete the construction and installation of required equipment alongwith the details of runways's extension, provision of handling big bodied Aircrafts as well as passenger capacity; and

(c) by when the Airport will become functional to receive flights from USA, Canada, England, Singapore etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned to upgrade and develop Amritsar airport in phases. In the first phase, it is planned to construct a new airconditioned international terminal building, new technical and control tower, new cargo complex and strengthen and resurface the existing runway etc. at an approximate cost of Rs. 79.26 crores. The proposal is under consideration of the Government, and is expected to be completed within 36 months from the date of award of the work.

(c) The airport is already handling limited international operations. The international flights to and from particular destination depend upon the traffic potential subject to bilateral agreements with the respective countries.

Reaction of staff over Disinvestment in AI

1711. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 170 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 2000 and state:

(a) what is the reaction of the Air India staff to the decision of the Government for disinvestment in the airline; and

(b) how Government propose to settle the issue amicably?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The reaction of the Air India staff to the disinvestment appears to be generally favourable. The interests of the Airlines employee would be safeguarded in the process of disinvestment.